

VZCZCXR07296
RR RUEHROV
DE RUEHDJ #0815 2901508
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
R 161508Z OCT 08
FM AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9599
INFO RUCNIAD/IGAD COLLECTIVE
RHMFIS/CJTF HOA
RHMFIS/HQ USAFRICOM STUTTGART GE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DJIBOUTI 000815

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR AF/E, AF/RSA BANDO, NEA/RA SOUCEK, AND
PM/PPA FOSTER
LONDON, PARIS, ROME FOR AFRICA WATCHER
CJTF-HOA FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/16/2018

TAGS: MARR PREL KPAO DJ

SUBJECT: DJIBOUTI ON AFRICOM: WELCOME

REF: STATE 104550 (NOTAL)

Classified By: PolOff Rebecca K. Hunter for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. (U) PolOff delivered reftel points on AFRICOM stand up to
GODJ Ministry of Foreign Affairs Deputy Director for
International Organizations Mohamed Idriss Farah on October
¶15.

¶2. (C) Farah communicated Djibouti's strong positive attitude
towards AFRICOM, which he characterized as "very important
for stability and development." Farah suggested that while
AFRICOM's public message might have been too complicated or
confusing at first, now the USG would do well to emphasize
AFRICOM's potential contributions towards the stability and
security that are crucial for Africa's economic development.

¶3. (SBU) Farah also reiterated Djibouti's offer to host
AFRICOM headquarters, calling Djibouti the "natural location"
both for its strategic position and for the GODJ's experience
in hosting the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa
(CJTF-HOA).

¶4. (SBU) COMMENT: No other country in Africa is as directly
supportive of AFRICOM as Djibouti. Djibouti currently hosts
2,500 U.S. troops and military contractors serving with
CJTF-HOA and other tenant commands at the only U.S. military
base in Africa. Senior Djiboutian officials, including the
foreign minister and the chief of defense (CHOD), have
repeatedly told visiting U.S. officials that Djibouti
welcomes AFRICOM and values U.S. military presence in
Djibouti, believing that it encourages foreign direct
investment. END COMMENT.
WONG